

PRESS RELEASE (for immediate release):

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NAU ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES TO HOST NATIONAL LEADERS IN FOREST MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

The Center for Environmental Sciences and Education at Northern Arizona University is coordinating The Lecture Series in Western Landscape Conservation to address emerging trends in landscape-level conservation and the policy changes needed to move beyond the current political stalemate on Western land and natural resource management issues. These events are co-sponsored by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Grand Canyon Trust.

This final event of this three-part series, entitled ***Breaking the gridlock on forest management: policy reforms, institutional change, and shifting public values***, will bring in distinguished scholars from around the country to address urgent needs in national conservation science, policy, and leadership related to our national forests. The event will take place on **Monday April 7th, from 5:30 to 7:00pm, at the Gardner Auditorium, in NAU's Franke College of Business.**

Our esteemed guests, working at the cutting edge of Western forest law, economics, and management, will illuminate the emerging opportunities for achieving more effective forest management, and will suggest the policy changes needed to realize them.

Dr. Barry Noon, Professor of Wildlife Ecology at Colorado State University, is a national authority on forest science and management; he has served on several advisory committees charged with developing science-based forest management policies, including the US Forest Service's Committee of Scientists (1997-1999).

Dan Rohlfs, is Professor of Law at Lewis and Clark Law School, Director of the Pacific Environmental Advocacy Center, and is an expert in endangered species law and policy, wildlife law, and ecosystem management. He is the author of *The Endangered Species Act of 1973: A Guide to its Protection and Implementation*.

Our guests will address the needs for major change in federal forest management priorities, suggesting that a new guiding vision is necessary, and active leadership is essential to this process of reform. The federal government must develop new policies and adapt legal guidelines to promote biodiversity conservation, ecological restoration, watershed protection, sustainable use, and to actively support scientific research and adaptive management—these priorities should be guiding criteria used to manage fire and recreation, not vice versa. Urgently needed changes must integrate new understandings of ecology, economics, law, appropriate geographic scale, climate change scenarios, and evolving social values in order to develop functional and sustainable forest management and to promote working landscapes in the West.

The series has been designed to define a clear set of strategic recommendations, targeted specifically to inform federal transition teams around the 2008 federal administration turnover, seeking to take advantage of a window of opportunity for Western lands conservation. Graduate students in the Environmental Sciences and Policy Program, working with NAU Professor Thomas Sisk, have been teaming with an outstanding interdisciplinary group of scientists, lawyers, economists, and policy experts.

Visiting scholars will also work with students in an ongoing Graduate Seminar in Landscape Conservation, discussing emerging opportunities and developing recommendations that NAU students and faculty, with guidance from the invited scholars will move forward publicly next fall and in early 2009.

For more information, or to schedule an interview, please contact Ryan Drum at 608-334-9291 or email Ryan.Drum@nau.edu. Additional information is also available at the following website: www.westernconservationseries.org.